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CLAIM LISTING:

A listing of the entire set of claims 1-17 is submitted herewith per 37 CFR §1.121. This listing of claims 1-17 will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Previously Presented) An alarm clock in communication with an external source of at least one audio data file, the alarm clock comprising:
 - a digital signal processor for receiving a first data signal from the external source and for decoding the first data signal to obtain the audio data file;
 - a memory for storing the audio data file;
 - a programmable controller for coordinating the transfer of the audio data file from the digital signal processor to the memory, and for activating an alarm sound coded in the audio data file in response to the programmable controller determining that the alarm sound is required to fulfill one or more programming instructions executed by the programmable controller; and
 - a speaker for playing the alarm sound.
2. (Previously Presented) The alarm clock as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a display for displaying information received from the programmable controller regarding the one or more programming instructions.
3. (Previously Presented) The alarm clock as claimed in claim 1, further comprising at least one manual input control that is used to provide an input of information to the programmable controller to supplement the one or more programming instructions of the programmable controller.
4. (Previously Presented) The alarm clock as claimed in claim 1, wherein an audio playback device is accessible by the programmable controller as an alternate source of the audio data file for use in the programmable controller fulfilling the one or more programming instructions.

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5. (Previously Presented) The alarm clock as claimed in claim 4, wherein the audio playback device is at least one of a cassette tape player, a CD-ROM player, a radio, a computer disk drive, a video cassette player, or a video digital drive.
6. (Previously Presented) The alarm clock as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:
 - a video display;
 - wherein the memory stores a video data file; and
 - wherein the programmable controller displays a video image on the video display in response to the programmable controller determining that the display of the video image is required to fulfill the one or more programming instructions.
7. (Previously Presented) The alarm clock as claimed in claim 6, further comprising:
 - a means of connection to an external source of at least one video data file;
 - wherein the digital signal processor receives a second data signal from the external source, and decodes the second signal to obtain the video data file; and
 - wherein the programmable controller coordinates the transfer of the video data file from the digital signal processor to the memory.
8. (Previously Presented) The alarm clock as claimed in claim 1, wherein the memory stores at least two data files that are one of audio and video.
9. (Previously Presented) The alarm clock as claimed in claim 1, wherein the alarm clock is connected to the external source of at least one audio data file by the digital signal processor receiving signals from at least one of an internet connection, a local computer network connection, an independent data drive, an independent audio playback device, or an independent computer.

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10. (Previously Presented) The alarm clock as claimed in claim 1, wherein the memory for storing the audio data file is located separate from the physical alarm clock unit and is accessed by the alarm clock by a data connection.
11. (Cancelled)
12. (Previously Presented) The alarm clock as claimed in claim 10, wherein the data connection connects the alarm clock to at least one of an external computer, an external data storage device, an external computer drive unit, a computer server that is part of a local computer network, or a computer server that is part of the world wide web internet.
13. (Previously Presented) The alarm clock as claimed in claim 1, wherein the speaker for playing the alarm sound is connected to the programmable controller by one of a direct, wired connection to the speaker, the wireless radio connection to a speaker, the wireless infrared connection to a speaker, or a means of transmitting data to the speaker that includes transmitting data in a wireless manner.
14. (Previously Presented) The alarm clock as claimed in claim 1, wherein the digital signal processor decodes the first signal to obtain a set of transmitted programming instructions that are used to supplement the one or more programming instructions of the programmable controller.
15. (Previously Presented) The alarm clock as claimed in claim 14, wherein the first signal is received from one of an Internet connection, a local computer network connection, an independent data drive, an independent audio playback device, or an independent computer.
16. (Previously Presented) The alarm clock as claimed in claim 14, wherein the programmable controller sends a data signal to the digital signal processor, and the digital signal processor transmits a signal to an external receiving device.

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17. (Previously Presented) The alarm clock as claimed in claim 1, wherein a first time and a first date on the alarm clock is synchronized with a second time and a second date on the external data source.